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EXAMINER
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2166	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/600,021	ALBORNOZ ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Khanh B. Pham	2166	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>07 June 2007</u>.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1,5-15,18-25,27,30 and 32-37</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1,5-15,18-25,27,30 and 32-37</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6)☐ Other: _____.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
PTOL-326 (Rev. 08-06)   Office Action Summary   Part of Paper No./Mail Date 20070824

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2.   **Claims 1, 6-15, 18-25, 27, 30, 32--37** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as

being anticipated by Gupta et al. (US 6,956,593 B1), hereinafter "**Gupta**".

     As per claim 1, Gupta teaches a method for exchanging information between

entities on a network comprising:

- "identifying a plurality of annotatable data objects manipulated by a plurality of

   applications on the network" at Col. 1 lines 63-65, Col. 4lines 28-31;

- "providing a set of annotation structures, each associated with one or more of the

   annotatable data objects and each defining attributes of one or more user

   interfaces for manipulating annotations for the annotatable data objects" at Col. 7

   lines 27-30, Col. 9 lines 15-25, Col. 12 line 55 to Col. 13 line 32 and Figs. 7-11;

- "wherein the one or more user interfaces comprises at least one graphical user

   interface, based on an associated annotation structure" at Figs. 7-11.

- "providing one or more transforms for use in transforming annotations structure into graphic user interface" Col. 12 line 55 to Col. 13 line 32 and Figs. 7-11.

- "providing, via an annotation management system on the network, the one or more user interfaces, wherein elements of each user interface are dependent on the attributes defined by an associated one of the annotation structures and wherein the elements are configured for user input corresponding to the manipulating of the annotations" at Col. 12 line 55 to Col. 13 line 32, Col. 14 line 50 to Col. 15 line 45 and Figs. 7-1

- "wherein providing the at least one graphical user interface comprises transforming the associated annotation structure" at Col. 12 line 55 to Col. 13 line 32 and Figs. 7-11.

As per claim 6, Gupta teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising: "installing one or more plug-in components for interfacing between the one or more applications and the annotation management system" at Col. 6 lines 30-63 and Fig. 3.

As per claim 7, Gupta teaches the method of claim 6, further comprising: "installing an annotation broker on the one or more client computers, the annotation broker providing an interface between one or more of the plug-in components and the annotation server" Fig. 3.

As per claim 8, Gupta teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising "installing a set of application programming interface functions for the annotation management system, callable from the one or more application" at Col. 6 lines 30-63.

As per claim 9, Gupta teaches the method of claim 8, wherein "the set of application programming interface functions comprise functions for manipulating annotations" at Col. 6 lines 30-63.

As per claim 10, Gupta teaches the method of claim 8, wherein "the set of application programming interface functions comprise functions for retrieving annotations for a specified data object" at Col. 16 liens 35-38.

As per claim 11, Gupta teaches the method of claim 8, wherein "the set of application programming interface functions include functions for retrieving an indication of data objects described by an annotation" at Col. 16 lines 7-65.

As per claim 12, Gupta teaches the method of claim 8, wherein "the set of application programming interface functions comprise at least one function for retrieving an indication of the plurality of annotatable data object" at Col. 16 lines 7-65.

As per claim 13, Gupta teaches the method of claim 1, wherein "providing the annotation structures comprises selecting, for each annotation structure, one or more annotation fields to include in the annotation structure" at Col. 16 lines 7-65.

As per claim 14, teaches the method of claim 13, wherein "at least some of the one or more user interfaces include elements allowing a user to enter information corresponding to one or more annotation fields included in an associated annotation structure" at Fig. 7-11.

As per claim 15, Gupta teaches a method of creating annotations for a plurality of different type data objects comprising:

- "receiving a request from a user to create an annotation for a data object" at Col. 12 lines 55-60;

- "retrieving, from a set of annotation structures, one or more annotation structures associated with the data object and dependent, at least in part, on at least one credential of a user initiating the request" at Col. 12 line 55 to Col. 13 line 32

- "wherein the at least one credential comprises a role of the user, and each annotation structure containing one or more annotation fields" at Col. 12 line 55 to Col. 13 line 32 and Col. 9 lines 15-25;

- "generating a graphical user interface based on one of the annotation structures, the graphical user interface allowing entry of information corresponding to the

one or more annotation fields associated with the one annotation structure" at

Col. 12 line 55 to Col. 13 line 32 and Fig. 7-11;

- "creating an annotation record comprising the information entered, via the

graphic user interface, for the one or more annotation fields" at Col. 13 lines 10-

50.

As per claim 18, Gupta teaches the method of claim 15, wherein a plurality of

annotation structures are associated with the data object (Col. 12 line 55 to Col. 13 line

32) and the method further comprises:

- "presenting, to a user, the plurality of annotation structures associated with the

data object" at Col. 14 lines 49-65;

- "receiving, from the user, a selection of one of the plurality of annotation

structures" at Col. 14 lines 49-65;

- "generating the graphical user interface based on the selected annotation

structure" at Col. 14 lines 49-65.

As per claim 19, Gupta teaches the method of claim 18, further comprising:

"receiving, from the user, a selected role in which the user has chosen to act" at Col. 9

lines 15-25 and Col. 12 line 55 to Col. 13 line 32.

As per claim 20, Gupta teaches the method of claim 19, wherein "the plurality of annotation structures presented to the user is dependent on the selected role" at Col. 12 line 55 to Col. 13 line 32.

As per claim 21, Gupta teaches the method of claim 19, further comprising: "retrieving, via an application programming interface, a plurality of roles associated with the user; and presenting, to the user, the plurality of roles associated with the user" at Col. 12 line 55 to Col. 13 line 32.

As per claim 22, Gupta teaches the method of claim 15, wherein "retrieving one or more annotation structures associated with the data object comprises passing an application programming interface function at least an indication of the data object" at Col. 6 lines 30-63.

As per claim 23, Gupta teaches the method of claim 22, wherein "retrieving the one or more annotation structures associated with the data object further comprises passing the application programming interface function at least one credential of a user" at Col. 6 lines 30-63 and Col. 9 lines 15-25.

As per claim 24, Gupta teaches the method of claim 22, wherein "the at least one user credential comprises at least one of a role and a user identification" at Col. 9 lines 15-25.

Claims 25-27, 30-37 recite similar limitations as discussed in claims 1-4, 6-15,

18-24 above and are therefore rejected by the same reasons.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4.   **Claim 5** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gupta as

applied to claims above, and in view of Kadel et al. (US 2002/0184401 A1), hereinafter

Kadel.

As per claim 5, Gupta teaches the method of claim 4 as discussed above. Gupta

does not explicitly teach "the one or more transforms comprise one or more Extensible

Stylesheet Language Transforms" as claimed. However, XSLT is well known for

transforming and exchanging information between entities on a network, as exemplary

by Kadel at [0084]. Thus, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at

the time of the invention was made to implement Gupta's method using XSLT in order

to provide a standard method for transforming and exchanging information between

entities on a network.

Response to Arguments

5.   Applicant's arguments filed June 7, 2007 have been fully considered but they are

not persuasive. The examiner respectfully traverses applicant's arguments

Regarding to claim 1, applicant argued that Gupta does not teach "providing a

set of annotation structure, each associated with one or more of the annotatable data

objects and each defining attributes of one or more user interfaces for manipulating

annotations for the annotatable data objects, wherein the one or more user interfaces

comprises at least one graphical user interface, based on an associated annotation

structures, and providing one or more transforms for use in transforming annotations

structures into graphical user interfaces". On the contrary, Gupta teaches at Fig. 3 a set

of annotation structure 17, 18 in **SQL relational format** (See Col. 7 lines 5-10) **are**

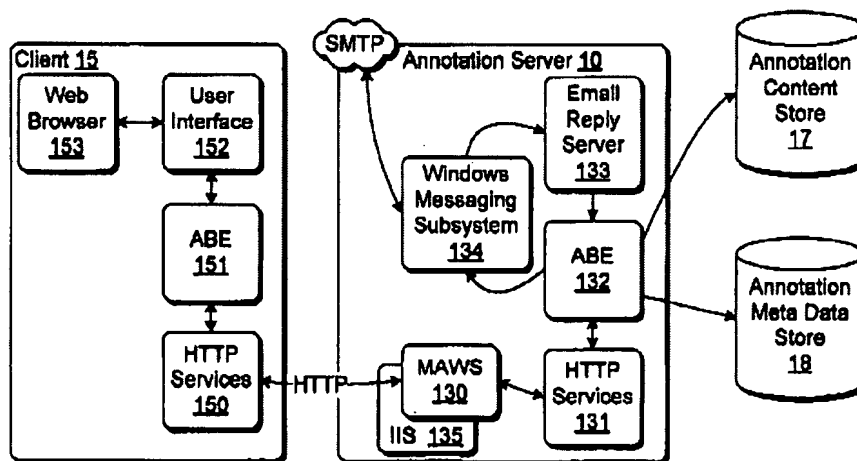**transformed to HTML** to be rendered and displayed to the user to the browser 153.

Fig. 3

Regarding claims 25, 30, applicant argued that Gupta does not teach "receiving a request from one of the applications to create an annotation for a data object comprises receiving the request from a plug-in component that provides an interface between the requesting application and the executable component for managing annotations". On the contrary, as seen in Fig. 3 above, Gupta teaches the MAWS 130, which is a plug-in for the IIS module 135, that provides an interface between requesting application (i.e., Web Browser 153) and the executable component for managing annotation (i.e., ABE 132). Further, the user interface 152 could also be consider "a plug-in component" for the web browser 153, which sends a request to annotation server 10 and provide an interface between the requesting application (i.e., browser 153) and the executable component for managing annotation (i.e., "annotation server 10).

Regarding claim 15, applicant argued that Gupta does not teach retrieving one or more annotation structures associated with a data object and dependent on at least on one credential of a user initiating the request, wherein the at least one credential comprises a role of the user". On the contrary, Gupta teaches at Col. 13 lines 1-10 that "annotation server 10 of Fig. 3 supports read and write access controls, allowing the creator of the set to **identify which users are able to read and/or write** to annotation set" and "only those sets for which the user has write access can be entered as set identifier" to be retrieved from annotation store 17,18 and rendered by the user interface 152. Gupta further teaches annotation sets can be classified based on role of the users such as "**instructor'**s comments", "**assistant'**s comment", "**student** question" at Col. 9 lines 15-25.

In light of the foregoing arguments, the 35 U.S.C 102 and 103 rejections are hereby sustained.

Conclusion

6.   **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a). `

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khanh B. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-4116. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30am to 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on (571) 272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Khanh B. Pham
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2166

September 3, 2007